



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE • BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

Lili Bosse, Mayor

March 28, 2017

The Honorable Sebastian Ridley-Thomas
Chair, Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee
State Capitol, Room 2176
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 252 (Ridley-Thomas) Local government: taxation: prohibition: video streaming services.

City of Beverly Hills – OPPOSE

Dear Chair Ridley-Thomas,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I write to you in OPPOSITION to AB 252 (Ridley-Thomas), which would prohibit any tax on the sale or use of video streaming services, including sales and use taxes and utility user taxes.

Although the City of Beverly Hills does not have a Utility User's Tax (UUT), the City recognizes the importance of protecting the ability of local governments to levy transaction and use taxes in order to raise additional revenues for essential services and funding for city programs and operations. AB 252 (Ridley-Thomas) infringes on local control by limiting the opportunity for local governments to use their discretion to impose taxes when necessary to best serve the City's functions and communities and meet local needs.

Furthermore, AB 252 (Ridley-Thomas) sets a dangerous precedent by undermining the established will of local voters in many jurisdictions throughout the state. Currently, there are 152 cities and 3 counties with a UUT ordinance. Over the last two decades, voters in over 107 cities and 3 counties have adopted measures to modernize their local UUT ordinances. Of these jurisdictions, 87 cities and 1 county approved ordinances to permit a UUT on video providers. These voters had the foresight to anticipate changing technologies, and overwhelmingly adopted policy to address the issue.

AB 252 (Ridley-Thomas) will restrict local financial flexibility and the ability of local governments and local voters to address community needs. For these reasons, the City of Beverly Hills OPPOSES AB 252 (Ridley-Thomas). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Lili Bosse
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

cc: Members and Consultants, Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee
The Honorable Ben Allen, 26th Senate District
The Honorable Richard Bloom, 50th Assembly District
Andrew K. Antwhih, Shaw / Yoder / Antwhih, Inc.